

Jackson Memorial Hospital Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Exercise

On April 2004 the Miami-Dade County Health Department participated as observers and filmed the Jackson Memorial Hospital (JMH) WMD exercise. The exercise involved several phases of response at the Medical Center level when faced with a Biological, Chemical or Radiological threat in the community. The JMH surge capacity and victim de-contamination procedures were tested and drilled. Security checkpoints within JMH were also activated and rehearsed as security perimeters were established around the numerous facilities.

JMH staff wore identification vests according to their assigned role and function during the exercise. Incident Command System (ICS) procedures and protocols were practiced and implemented throughout the exercise with an established chain of command. A command post that served as the central location for information gathering and assessment was also established within the JMH during the exercise.

The MDCHD staff that witnessed and filmed the exercise learned much about exercise planning and preparation that could be practiced and implemented within the MDCHD. The video taken is considered an important education tool for both JMH and the MDCHD.